

GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION

ON

HIGHER EDUCATION
REFORM,
INNOVATION
and
INVESTMENT



Overview of the Governor's Commission Report and "Top Jobs" Legislation

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Commission Chair
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“Preparing for the Top Jobs of the 21st Century”

The Virginia Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2011

- Commits the Commonwealth to national and international leadership in college degree attainment and personal income.
- Puts Virginia on a focused and sustainable path of higher education reform, innovation, and investment.
- Establishes a clear state policy that will serve as a roadmap and catalyst for priority investment as the economy and revenues rebound.
- Provides the framework for developing and funding specific initiatives promoting economic opportunity, reform-based investment, and affordable access.



“Preparing for the Top Jobs of the 21st Century”

The Virginia Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2011

1. ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY –

Fueling economic growth and preparing Virginians for the top job opportunities in the knowledge-based economy

2. REFORM-BASED INVESTMENT –

Maintaining excellence and achieving global leadership through sustained, reform-based investment and innovation

3. AFFORDABLE ACCESS –

Providing all capable Virginians with access to a college degree at an affordable cost



Outline of Major Recommendations

1. ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

a) 100,000 More Degrees

- i. Enrolling more Virginia students**
- ii. Degree completion by Virginians with partial credit**
- iii. Improving retention and graduation rates**

b) STEM and Other High-Demand Degrees

- i. Economic opportunity metrics**
- ii. STEM degree initiative**

c) Research and Development Initiative

- i. Statewide R&D strategic roadmap**
- ii. Creation of Virginia Innovation Fund**
- iii. R&D income tax credit**



Outline of Major Recommendations

2. REFORM-BASED INVESTMENT

a) Year-Round Utilization

b) Technology-Enhanced Instruction

- i. “Virtual Departments” initiative**
- ii. Innovative course redesign**
- iii. Expansion of online course offerings**
- iv. Electronic textbooks and online curriculum**

c) Degree Path Initiatives

- i. Dual enrollment and advanced placement**
- ii. Community college transfer program**
- iii. Accelerated degree completion**
- iv. College readiness initiatives**

d) Restructuring Refinements

e) Community College “Reengineering”



Outline of Major Recommendations

3. AFFORDABLE ACCESS

a) Codified Funding Model

- i. Four-part framework**
- ii. Restoring predictable state support**
- iii. Reducing reliance on tuition**
- iv. Higher education rainy day fund**

b) Per-Student Funding

- i. Tuition assistance grants (TAG)**
- ii. Enrollment growth incentive funding**

c) Need-Based Financial Aid

- i. Targeting low- and middle-income families**

d) Incentives for Economic Impact and Innovation